

Road Tribute to Nick Stoner, Trail Blazer

Nick Stoner blazed the trail with courageous deeds and high adventure back in the days of the Revolution. It was rugged country. It still is. But today's follower of this scenic pathway through history need never leave the comfort of his automobile.

In tribute to its early American hero, Fulton County last year dedicated a 30-mile stretch of Route 10 to the memory of the legendary warrior and trapper. Assemblyman Joseph R. Youngblood of Johnstown is seeking legislation to officially designate the highway as the "Nick Stoner Trail."

Major Stoner not only fought in the Revolution, when he saw his father scalped by the Indians, but saw action in the War of 1812.

Familiar with the fertile Adirondack sector now within the Fulton County borders, Major Stoner moved along paths of both hostile and friendly Indians, who used trails and waterways for bringing furs from Canada to Mohawk River trading posts.

Historical records indicate that once, while exploring headwaters of the Grasse River (which empties into the St. Lawrence), the major encountered a French Canadian hunter and his Indian squaw-wife. The couple was headed for Johnstown and asked Stoner to outline the most feasible route. Stoner traced a map on a piece of birchbark. It is this route which now bears his name.

Aside from its challenge to the imagination of the history enthusiast, this well-paved route provides ready access to some of the Adirondacks' most spectacular setting.

Tourists can reach the trail from New York State Thruway Exit 28 at Canajoharie or 29 at Fonda. From these points, Route 10 may be followed to Caroga Lake, Canada Lake, Pine Lake and into the Piseco Lake area.

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Tribute To A Hero

their Adirondack travels may continue from Piseco Lake to Speculator and complete a wide circular swing by returning along the Adirondack Trail (Route 30) to Sacandaga Re-

servoir. Or the tourist may continue northward into Canada.

Entering the Adirondack State Park at its southernmost point, one finds that, despite development of numerous vacation fa-

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cilities, vast sectors of picturesque mountains, woods, lakes and streams remain unspoiled. Fulton County, which boasts 44 lakes and excellent recreational facilities, has carefully preserved the primitive beauty of its natural endowments.

Nick Stoner was brought to Fonda's Bush from New York City by his father, Henry, a pioneer who settled about 10 miles northeast of the present Village of Johnstown. The latter was then the residence of Sir William Johnson, the famous Indian Agent for Six Nations.

His luxurious home, Johnston Hall, is now a mecca for tourists.

Other area attractions include the Sacandaga, 25-mile long man-made reservoir, where fishing, swimming and boating are popular, and Adirondack Park, famous vacation spot on the northern end of Sacandaga.

Persons wishing complete information on Fulton County's diversified tourist attractions may write to Fulton County Publicity Committee, County Building, Johnstown 18, N. Y.

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